

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1 and 28 as follows so that the complete of pending claims reads as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method for selecting a modulator of a gonadal cell migration activity in a nematode having a developing gonadal cell, the nematode being selected from the group consisting of *C. elegans* and *C. briggsae*, the migration activity being selected from the group consisting of elongation and expansion, wherein the migration activity ~~can be~~ is regulated by a protein that comprises a metalloprotease domain and a thrombospondin domain, the method comprising the steps of:

treating a nematode with at least one potential modulator thereby producing a treated nematode; and

observing in the treated nematode a change in the migration activity of the cell attributable to the at least one potential modulator, wherein the change is not observed after treatment with the potential modulator of a mutant of the nematode that comprises the cell but does not comprise the protein, wherein the change results in the selection of the modulator,

wherein the protein is selected from the group consisting of a protein having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, a protein encoded by a heterologous polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 introduced under transcriptional control of a promoter functional in the nematode, a chimeric protein that retains a metalloprotease domain and at least one thrombospondin domain of SEQ ID NO:2, murine ADAMTS-1 protein, bovine procollagen-1 N-proteinase, and human aggrecan-degrading metalloprotease.

2. (Previously amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein before the treating step the migration activity is absent or reduced relative to a wild type individual.

3. (Previously amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the treating step restores or enhances the migration activity.

4. (Previously amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein before the treating step the migration activity is at a level of a wild type individual.

5. (Previously amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the treating step reduces the migration activity.

6. – 10. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the at least one modulator is selected from the group consisting of a nucleic acid molecule, a protein molecule, a sugar, a lipid, an organic molecule, a synthetic or natural pharmaceutical agent, and a mixture thereof.

14. – 27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein before the treating step ~~the migration activity is not regulated by the protein~~ is non-functional.

29. (Previously amended) A method as claimed in Claim 28 wherein the modulator is a nucleic acid molecule that encodes the protein.

30. (Previously amended) A method as claimed in Claim 28 wherein the modulator is the protein.